

Sarah Pierce Taylor

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL
Assistant Professor of Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture, current

Concordia University, QC, Canada
Assistant Professor of South Asian Religions, Department of Religions and Culture, 2018-2019

Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH
Visiting Assistant Professor of Hinduism, Department of Religion, 2016-2017

Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA
Visiting Instructor of Religion, 2015-2016

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Ph.D., South Asia Studies, May 2016

Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
M.T.S., South Asian Religion, June 2008

McGill University, Montreal, QC
B.A., Religious Studies, June 2006

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs in Progress:

Embodying Souls: Emotion, Gender, and Animality in Premodern South Asian Religions. Book manuscript in progress (anticipated submission to press in January 2024)

Figures of Sovereignty: Jain Masculine Techniques of the Self. Dissertation-to-book manuscript in progress (anticipated submission to press in July 2024).

Beyond the Monastery: The Entangled Institutional History of the South Asian Maṭha, volume edited with Caleb Simmons under consideration by Oxford University Press.

Articles and Book Chapters:

“The [Mis]Recognition of the Wife in Sanskrit Drama,” for a special issue entitled, “Language of the Gods in the World of Men,” under consideration by *New Literary History*.

“Messaging Feelings in Jinasena’s *Ascent of Parsva*,” solicited for a volume on Sanskrit messenger poetry edited by Yigal Bronner and David Shulman, second round of edits.

“‘Sovereigns Whose Feet Were Worshipped by Kings’: The Jain *Maṭha* and the Rhetoric of Empire.” Book chapter for inclusion in *Beyond the Monastery: The Entangled Institutional History of the South Asian Maṭha*, edited by Caleb Simmons and Sarah Pierce Taylor, under consideration by Oxford University Press.

“The Mirror in Kannada Literature,” (co-authored with Andrew Ollett and Gil Ben-Herut) in *Lasting Vision: Daṇḍin’s Mirror in the World of Asian Letters*, ed. Yigal Bronner (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023).

“The King Never Dies: Royal Renunciation and the Fiction of Jain Sovereignty,” submitted for the special issue “Sovereignty and Religion in India: Negotiating Authority, Rule, and Realm in Premodern South Asia” *Religions*, 12 (2021), 1-19.

Translations:

The Path of the Poet-King, with Andrew Ollett. Critical Edition and English Translation in progress (project funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities), under consideration with Oxford University Press.

*Available online: www.wayofthepoetking.com (username: amoghavarsha/ password: nitinirantara)

Pampa’s *History from the Beginning*. English translation of Pampa’s Kannada *Ādipurāṇa* (941 C.E.) in preparation for submission to the Murty Series, Harvard University Press.

Encyclopedia Entries:

“Digambara Jainism and the Making of Old Kannada Literary Culture” in *Brill Encyclopedia of Jainism*, eds Cort, et. al. (Leiden: Brill, 2020), 342-352.

“Jains, Kings, and Kingship in Medieval India” in *Brill Encyclopedia of Jainism*, eds Cort, et. al. (Leiden: Brill, 2020), 486-498.

Book Reviews:

Gil Ben-Herut, Śiva’s Saints: The Origins of Devotion in Kannada According to Harihara’s “Ragaḷagaḷu,” *History of Religions* 60.2 (2020): 159-161.

Caleb Simmons, “The Goddess and the King: Cāmuṇḍēśvari and the Fashioning of the Wodeyar Court of Mysore” (University of Florida, 2014) *Dissertation Reviews*, May 2015, <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/12061>.

INVITED LECTURES

- “Jainism’s Jeweled Garlands: From India to Illinois,” Inaugural Jain Studies Lecture, University of Chicago Divinity School, May 2022.
- “Family Ties: A Jain Philosophy of Emotion and the Production of Karmic Families,” Columbia University Seminar on South Asia, March 2022.
- “Rethinking Non-Violence: The Spiritual and Emotional Lives of Animals in Jain Literature,” Department of Religious Studies, UC Davis, February 2019.
- “Rethinking Non-Violence: The Spiritual and Emotional Lives of Animals in Jain Literature,” Roop Lal Jain Lecture, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, February 2019.
- “[Trans]migration and the Gendering of the Jain Soul,” Department of Comparative Literature, University of Chicago, February 2019.
- “Heavy Feelings in Jinasena’s *Ascent of Pārśva*,” Department of Religions and Cultures, Concordia University, January 2018.
- “Heavy Feelings in Jinasena’s *Ascent of Pārśva*,” Department of Religious Studies, UNC Greensboro, January 2018.
- “The Way of the Poet-King: Two Authors, Two Models, Two Languages,” with Andrew Ollett, South Asia Seminar, University of Chicago, January 2018.
- “Transmigratory Love Stories in Pampa’s *Ādipurāṇa*: Caught in a Bad Romance,” Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, January 2016.
- “Acts of Translation: The *Ādipurāṇa* in Text, Image, and Inscription,” Five College Buddhist Studies Faculty Seminar, Smith College, Northampton, October 2015

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- “The [Mis]Recognition of the Wife in Sanskrit Drama,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin at Madison, October 2022.
*Co-organized two-part panel “Language of the Gods in the World of Men.”
- “The Speed of Prose and the Pace of Narrative in Old Kannada Literature,” Annual Conference on South Asia Pre-Conference, University of Wisconsin at Madison, October 2022.
- “Loving at a Distance: Andhra Through the Eyes of Old Kannada Poets,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin at Madison, October 2022
- “The Speed of Prose in Old Kannada *Campū*,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, October 2019.

- “An Unhappily Married Man as an Occasion for Debate: Jain Engagements with Human Causality,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, October 2018.
- Discussant, South Asia, “Global Medievalisms: Notes from the Fields,” Medieval Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, May 2017.
- “Theorizing a South Asia Religious Commons: Jains and Śaivas in the Medieval Deccan,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2016.
- “Reimagining the Boundaries between Sanskrit and the Vernacular in the Old Kannada Prose Interregnum,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, October 2016.
- “When a Sanskrit Fault is a Kannada Virtue: *Khaṇḍa Prāsa* in Śrīvijaya’s *Kavirājamārgam*,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, October 2016.
- “The Path of the Poet-king: Literary Ornament as Political Ornament in Śrīvijaya’s *Kavirājamārgam*,” Asia in the Mirror of Literature working group, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, December 2016
*Available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv0QgeY-D30>
- “Jinasena’s *Pārśvābhyudaya* and the Making of Jain Cosmopolitanism,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 2015
- “An Archive of Aspirations: Narrating the Origins of Jainism in the Deccan,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, March 2015
- “‘Sovereigns Whose Feet Were Worshipped by Kings’: The Jain *Maṭha* and the Rhetoric of Empire, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2014.
*Co-organized panel “The *Maṭha*: Entangled Histories of a Religio-Political Institution in South India”
- “Praising the Jina as Śiva: Doxographical Logic in Jain Stotra,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, March 2014
- “Sacrifice as Metaphor, Sacrifice as Practice: Jinasena’s *Ādipurāṇa* and the Medieval Jain Community of the Deccan,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, November 2013
- Discussant, Jinasena’s *Pārśvābhyudaya*, Mapping the World through Courier Poems, Sanskrit Summer Academy III, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, August 2013
- “Transmigratory Love Stores: Thinking Through Romance in Jinasena’s *Ādipurāṇa*,” National Seminar on Jain Literature in India Languages, Osmania University, Kolhapur, India, March 2013

"Rethinking the Religio-Political Cartography of the Western Deccan," Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, October 2012

Discussant, Śrīvijaya's *Kavirājamārgam*, Daṇḍin in the World Preconference, Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, October 2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

"Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations I" (undergrad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Fall 2022.

"Introduction to Classical Hinduism" (undergrad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Spring 2022.

"Special Topics in Hinduism" (grad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Spring 2022.

"Proseminar: Creating an Academic Profile and Dossier" (grad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Spring 2022.

"Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations I" (undergrad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Fall 2021.

"Settler Religion: Searching for Indians" (grad), co-taught with Professor Anand Venkatkrishnan, University of Chicago Divinity School, Fall 2021.

"My Body, My Self: Asceticism and Subjectivity" (grad), co-taught with Professor Erin Walsh, University of Chicago Divinity School, Winter 2020.

"Feeling Religious or Emotions as a Variety of Religious Experience" (grad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Winter 2020.

"Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations I" (undergrad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Fall 2020.

"Contemporary Topics in the Study of South Asian Religions: Imagining South Asian Islam" (grad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Fall 2020.

"Why do Animals Talk? Beastly Worlds in South Asian Literature" (undergrad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Spring 2020.

"Narrative in the Time of Queer and Crip" (grad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Spring 2020.

"Disability Studies and the Question of Religion" (grad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Winter 2020.

"Gender and Sexuality in South Asian Religions" (grad), University of Chicago Divinity School, Winter 2020.

“Yoga in History, Thought & Practice” (300-level), Concordia University, Spring 2019.

“Religion and the Arts in South & Southeast Asia” (300-level), Concordia University, Spring 2019.

“Introduction to Hinduism” (200-level), Concordia University, Fall 2018.

“Love, Passion, and Pain: Devotion in Indian Religions” (100-level), Oberlin College, Spring 2017.

“Gender and Sexuality in South Asian Religions” (200-level), Oberlin College, Spring 2017.

“Introduction to Hindu Traditions” (200-level), Oberlin College, Spring 2017.

“Nonviolence: From Gandhi to Martin Luther King Jr.” (200-level), Oberlin College, Fall 2016.

“Introduction to Hindu Traditions” (200-level), Oberlin College, Fall 2016.

“Gender and Sexuality in South Asian Religion,” Mount Holyoke College, Spring 2016.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Placement Committee Chair, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2020-2022.
Committee on Degrees, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2020-2021
Masters Admissions, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2021-2021
Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2019-2020
Placement Committee, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2019-2020
Graduate Student Jobs Placement Officer, Department of Religions and Culture, Concordia University, 2018-19
Coordinator, Annual Bender Lecture Series on Jainism, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 2008-2010
Coordinator, Department of South Asia Studies Colloquium Series, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 2008-2009

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty sponsor, Disability Studies Workshop, 2021-2022
Committee on Future Initiatives in Dalit and Indigenous Studies, COSAS, 2021-2022
Access UChicago Now Leadership Team, University of Chicago, 2020-present
Committee on Southern Asian Studies, 2019-present
South Asia Seminar Sponsor (fall quarter), 2019-2022

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Editorial board member, *Religion Compass*, 2021-present
Reviewer, Annual Conference on South Asia, 2020-2023
Co-chair, Religion and South Asia Unit, American Academy of Religion, 2019-2022.

Coordinator of The Affective Turn in Religious Studies Workshop, Amherst College, May 2016
Coordinator of Monastery, Mosque, and Temple: Jains, Muslims and Hindus in the Medieval Deccan (c. 700-1700), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 2012

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Research Fellowships

Neubauer Collegium Research Project, "Entanglements of the Indian Past," 2021-2024
National Endowment for the Humanities, Scholarly Editions and Translations Grant (with Andrew Ollett), 2017-2018
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, 2013-14
Teece Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, Summer 2013
American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship 2012-13
Jiv Daya Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2012-13 (declined)
Dean's Summer Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2011
School of Arts and Science Student Government and Dean's Award for Research and New Media, University of Pennsylvania, Summer 2011
Department of South Asia Studies Summer Grant, University of Pennsylvania, Summer 2009

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Consortium for Faculty Diversity Fellowship, College of Wooster 2018-19 (declined)
Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Hebrew University, 2015-16 (declined)

Dissertation Fellowships

Five College Dissertation Completion Fellowship for Faculty Diversity, 2015-16
Briton-Martin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-15

Ph.D. Funding

Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Education Fellow, 2015-16
Boies Family Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-15
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2008-13
William Fontaine Fellowship for Minority Students, University of Pennsylvania, 2008-13

Language Study Fellowships

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Advanced Kannada), 2010-2011
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Intermediate Kannada), Summer 2009
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Intermediate Kannada), 2008-2009
U.S Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (Intermediate Hindi), Summer 2007

Prizes

Second Prize, Ezra Pound Translation Contest judged by Adria Bernardi,

University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2015

OVERSEAS STUDY

American Institute of Indian Studies

Advanced Year-long Kannada Program, Mysore, India, 2010-2011

Intermediate Summer Kannada Program, Mysore, India, 2009

Intermediate Hindi Summer Program, Jaipur, India, 2007

University of Würzburg

Prakrit Summer School, Würzburg, Germany, 2009

North Carolina State University

Summer Study Abroad Program, New Delhi, India, 2005

LANGUAGES

French (Reading); German (Reading); Hindi (Intermediate); Old, Medieval, and Modern Kannada (Advanced); Prakrit (Intermediate); Sanskrit (Advanced)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

Association for Asian Studies

STUDENT ADVISING

Primary Ph.D. Advisor

Henry Brefka, Islamic Studies & Religion Literature and Visual Culture

Luke Soderstrom, Ad Hoc (co-advised with Clark Gilpin)

Taylor Barnhill, Ad Hoc (incoming 2023)

Vani Hegde Vignesh, Ad Hoc (incoming 2023)

Dissertation Committee Member

Rachel Carbonara, “The Human Energy Field and the Immanent Spirit: On Field-Theory Metaphysics and the post-1980s Self”

Marielle Harrison, “The Politics of Flesh in Early Mahāyāna Buddhism”

Itamar Ramot, “Making Literary Criticism ‘for the Sake of Everyone’s Knowledge’: The Training of a Transregional Critical Reading Community in 10-14th-century South Asia”

Allison Kanner-Botan, “Maddening Love: Islamic Thought and the Politics of Desire in the Legend of Layla and Majnun (2023)”

Seema Chauhan, “(Mis)Understanding Hinduism: Representations of Hinduism in Jain Purāṇas” (2021)

Nabanjan Maitra, “The Rebirth of Homo Vedicus: Monastic Governmentality in Medieval India” (2021)

Exam Committee Member

Sarah Levenstam (Animals in South Asian Religions)
Luke Soderstrom (Disability and the Study of Religion)

MDiv Thesis Advisor

Shraddha Jain, “Two Hearts Desire: Reclaiming Pregnancy through Jain Narrative.”

Hayley Segall, “The Singh Twins and Past-Modernism: Encountering Generational Trauma through Sikh Contemporary Art.”

Emily Springer, “Out of Our Minds: Mad Theology for Spiritual Care” (2022)

Rebecca MacMaster, “Wholeness of Body and Fullness of Faith: Towards a Constructive Theology of Chronic Pain” (2020)

Masters of the Arts Thesis Advisor

Emma Jones, “*I Just Lived and Never Thought About It*: Illness, ‘Crip Time,’ and Self-reflection in K.A. Porter’s ‘Pale Horse, Pale Rider’” (2019)

M.A. & MDiv Advisor

Taylor Barnhill, MA
Justin Carlson, MDiv (with Prof. Culp)
Cooper Kent (with Dan Arnold)
Avani Solanki, MA
Katy Schoedel, MA
Joanna Zabiega, MDiv
Lu Zhang, MDiv